AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a gas impermeable joint in a fuel fill system, the method comprising:

providing a tube having a metallic barrier layer disposed between an inner plastic layer and an outer plastic layer, the tube and the layers each having a circumference, the outer plastic layer including a shoulder protruding radially outward around at least a portion of its circumference;

forcing at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer into contact with a plastic surface of a funnel portion of the fuel fill system, the funnel portion including an outer protrusion portion surrounding a cylindrical recess, the recess being dimensioned to receive an end of the tube, the plastic surface of the funnel portion being formed within the recess to contact the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer, the plastic surface of the funnel portion also being formed on the outer protrusion portion to contact the shoulder of the outer plastic layer;

causing at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer to contact the plastic surface formed within the recess;

causing the shoulder of the outer plastic layer to contact the plastic surface formed on the outer protrusion portion; and

welding at least one of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer and the shoulder of the outer plastic layer with the plastic surface to form the gas impermeable joint.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion,~~ the plastic surface ~~being~~ is formed on an outer circumference of the ~~cylindrical~~ outer protrusion.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion,~~ the plastic surface ~~being~~is formed on an inner circumference of the ~~cylindrical~~ outer protrusion.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 0.6 millimeters.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 1 millimeter.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 0.6 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 1 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the inner plastic layer is formed by a first tube, the metallic barrier is formed by an aluminum foil bonded exteriorly about the first tube, and the outer plastic layer is formed by a second tube bonded exteriorly about the aluminum foil; the first tube and the second tube each comprising about 20 percent by weight of EPDM rubber and from about 2 to 9 percent by weight of polybutadiene-maleic anhydride adduct resin.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tube includes a reinforcement layer bonded exteriorly about the outer plastic layer.

12. (currently amended) A fuel fill system comprising:

a tube having a metallic barrier layer disposed between an inner plastic layer and an outer plastic layer, the tube and the layers each having a circumference, the outer plastic layer including a shoulder protruding radially outward around at least a portion of its circumference; and

a funnel portion in fluid communication with the tube via a joint, the funnel portion including an outer protrusion portion surrounding a cylindrical recess, the recess being dimensioned to receive an end of the tube, a plastic surface of the funnel portion being formed within the recess to contact the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer, the plastic surface of the funnel portion also being formed on the outer protrusion portion to contact the shoulder of the outer plastic layer, wherein at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer includes a [is] spin weld[ed] between it and [to a]the plastic surface of the funnel portion to form the joint.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~the funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion,~~ the plastic surface ~~being~~ is formed on an outer circumference of the ~~cylindrical~~ outer protrusion.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~the funnel portion includes a cylindrical protrusion,~~ the plastic surface ~~being~~ is formed on an inner circumference of the ~~cylindrical~~ outer protrusion.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 0.6 millimeters.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is greater than about 1 millimeter.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 0.6 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the thickness of the at least one of the inner plastic layer and the outer plastic layer before welding is between about 1 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the inner plastic layer is formed by a first tube, the metallic barrier is formed by an aluminum foil bonded exteriorly about the first tube, and the outer plastic layer is formed by a second tube bonded exteriorly about the aluminum foil; the first tube and the second tube each comprising about 20 percent by weight of EPDM rubber and from about 2 to 9 percent by weight of polybutadiene-maleic anhydride adduct resin.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the tube includes a reinforcement layer bonded exteriorly about the outer plastic layer.